

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 SSM-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 /074 W

----- 010297

R 271328Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1220

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 2937

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, US

SUBJECT: RABIN ON MATTI GOLAN BOOK

REF: STATE 99517

1. FOLLOWING ARE RELEVANT EXCERPTS FROM DOV GOLDSTEIN INTERVIEW
WITH PRIME MINISTER RABIN IN APRIL 14 MAARIV REGARDING MATTI
GOLAN BOOK. (ALSO CARRIED IN FBIS DAILY REPORT APRIL 15
VOL.V, NUMBER 74, PAGE N2.)

2. BEGIN TEXT: Q. YOU KEEP ASSERTING THAT THERE IS NO CONFRONTA-
TION IN U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS. IN THE CABINET YOU CLAIMED,
OR SO IT WAS REPORTED AND NOT DENIED, THAT THERE WAS A GROUP
INTERESTED IN DISRUPTING AND DAMAGING THE RELATIONS BETWEEN
THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL. IF YOU WERE REFERRING TO ASAD,
SADAT, BREZHNEV AND ARAFAT, PROOF IS UNNECESSARY. HOW-
EVER, IF, GOD FORBID, YOU WERE REFERRING TO PEOPLE IN ISRAEL,
COULD YOU PLEASE IDENTIFY THEM SO THAT WE KNOW WHO ARE THESE
ISRAELIS CAUSING SUCH SERIOUS MISCHIEF?

3. A. I HAVE MORE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT FOR SOME TIME NOW A
NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN ISRAEL AND PERHAPS EVEN OUTSIDE IT HAVE
BEEN TRYING TO TAINT U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS SO AS TO
DAMAGE THE GOVERNMENT'S CREDIBILITY. THEY ARE ESPECIALLY
DETERMINED TO HARM CERTAIN PEOPLE IN THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT
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AND THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION. THE FIRST EXPRESSION

OF THIS TREND WAS THE GIVING OF CLASSIFIED MATERIAL TO AN ISRAELI JOURNALIST WHO PUBLISHED A BOOK ON THE BASIS OF THAT INFORMATION WITH THE ONLY TOO OBVIOUS MOTIVATION OF UNDERMINING RELATIONS AND HARMING CERTAIN KEY INDIVIDUALS, BOTH IN THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AND IN THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION. LET ME POINT OUT THAT THE MATERIAL HANDED OVER TO THAT NEWSMAN FOR THE PUBLICATION OF A BOOK WAS INCOMPLETE AND TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT AND SOME SECTIONS ACTUALLY ARE DELIBERATELY INACCURATE IN ORDER TO SERVE THE DAMAGING OBJECTIVES I HAVE MENTIONED. EVERY READER SEEKING TO OBTAIN A TRUE PICTURE OF U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS ON THE BASIS OF THE EVENTS RECOUNTED IN THAT BOOK OBTAINS A DISTORTED PICTURE. EVER SINCE THE HANDING OF THE MATERIAL TO THE NEWSMAN THESE PEOPLE HAVE CLEARLY ENGAGED IN THIS OBJECTIVE. THEY ARE PRESENTING A DISTORTED PICTURE OF THE FACTS CONCERNING THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND ARE INDULGING IN DISTORTED INTERPRETATIONS, ALL IN ORDER TO FOUL THE ATMOSPHERE AND TO DISRUPT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL.

4. Q. YOU STILL HAVE NOW SAID WHO THE PEOPLE ARE.

A. YOU DO NOT EXPECT ME TO SPECIFY...

Q. THE MATERIAL GIVEN TO THE NEWSMAN, DID IT REACH THIS GROUP? WERE THEY, THEMSELVES, AUTHORIZED TO SEE THE CLASSIFIED INFORMATION?

A. THE MATERIAL GIVEN TO THE NEWSMAN WAS IN THE HANDS OF A LIMITED NUMBER OF PERSONS.

Q. ISRAELIS?

A. YES, ISRAELIS.

Q. PEOPLE IN OFFICE?

A. ISRAELI PERSONALITIES.

Q. WHY DON'T YOU ASK THE LEGAL ADVISOR TO PUT THEM ON TRIAL?

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A. I CANNOT CLAIM TO HAVE LEGAL EVIDENCE TO HAVE THEM TRIED.

Q. TO THE BEST OF YOUR KNOWLEDGE, ARE THEY STILL AT IT?

A. RELENTLESSLY. END TEXT

5. ALTHOUGH RABIN DID NOT MENTION GOLAN BY NAME IN ABOVE INTERVIEW, GOLAN IN HAARETZ APRIL 26 MADE THE FOLLOWING

COMMENTS IN AN ARTICLE ENTITLED "RABIN HAUNTED BY CRITICISM."

BEGIN TEXT: WHEN RABIN FIRST SPOKE OF PEOPLE WHO WANTED TO SABOTAGE U.S.- ISRAEL RELATIONS, IT SEEMED A CASE OF THINKING ALOUD OR PERHAPS EVEN A SLIP OF THE TONGUE; WHEN HE SAYS IT OVER AND OVER AGAIN ON ALL KIND OF OFFICIAL AND LESS OFFICIAL OCCASIONS, ONE GETS WORRIED ABOUT HIS THINKING. HE SEEMS TO BE FIRING ACCUSATIONS AT RANDOM WITHOUT PRODUCING EVEN A SHADE OF EVIDENCE. ASKED IN HIS INTERVIEW IN MAARIV OF APRIL 14 WHO THESE PEOPLE ARE, HE REPLIES: "SURELY YOU DO NOT EXPECT ME TO MENTION NAMES?" THE INTERVIEWER, WHO IS ALSO MR. RABIN'S OFFICIAL BIOGRAPHER (DOV GOLDSTEIN), DID NOT PRESS FOR NAMES OR FOUR SPECIFIC INDICATIONS OF THE DAMAGE BEING DONE TO ISRAEL-U.S. RELATIONS. IT IS THE KIND OF WRITING OF WHICH MR. RABIN HAS BEEN COMPLAINING RECENTLY WHERE HAARETZ IS CONCERNED. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION, HE HAS EVEN SAID THAT HAARETZ IS OUT TO BRING HIM DOWN...WHAT IS INTERESTING ABOUT IT ALL, IS THE WAY HE IDENTIFIED THE GROUP THAT ALLEGEDLY WANTS TO SABOTAGE U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE WHO ARE OUT TO GET HIM. TO HIM THAT IS THE SAME THING. LISTENING TO HIM, ONE CONCLUDES THAT WHOEVER CRITICIZES RABIN, DAMAGES ISRAEL-U.S. RELATIONS.

6. THE PLOT AND PLOTTERS, THOUGH, EXIST ONLY IN MR. RABIN'S IMAGINATION. EXCEPT FOR SOME MARGINAL EXTREMISTS, WHAT ISRAELI IN HIS SENSES WOULD WANT TO SABOTAGE RELATIONS WITH THE ONLY POWER THAT SUPPORTS ISRAEL? SOMETHING HAS EVIDENTLY GONE WRONG WITH MR. RABIN'S VOCABULARY WHEN HE MIXES UP "CRITICISM" AND "SABOTAGE."

7. IN THE MATTER OF RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. MR. RABIN HAD BETTER LOOK TO HIS OWN ACTIONS BEFORE ACCUSING OTHERS I WOULD NOT LIKE TO TAKE KISSINGER'S WORD FOR IT THAT RABIN MISLED HIM ABOUT THE INTERIM AGREEMENT AND THAT THAT DID SERIOUS UNCLASSIFIED

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DAMAGE TO THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES; BUT THERE ARE ENOUGH OTHER INSTANCES OF "MISUNDERSTANDINGS" BETWEEN RABIN AND U.S. ADMINISTRATION HEADS. WHAT RABIN IS DOING NOW IN SPEAKING OF A GROUP OF SABOTEURS, IS TRYING TO SHIFT THE BLAME FOR THE DETERIORATION IN ISRAEL-U.S. RELATIONS TO OTHERS.

8. INSTEAD OF CHASING GHOSTS, IT IS TIME RABIN UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE ARE NO DIFFERENCES OF INTEREST BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THE PRESS AND THE PEOPLE HE HINTS ABOUT, WHERE ISRAEL'S WELFARE AND SECURITY ARE CONCERNED. AT MOST THERE ARE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ABOUT THINGS THAT SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT BE DONE, AND ONE IS NOT NECESSARILY AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE AND OF ISRAEL-U.S. RELATIONS FOR NOT AGREEING TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S EVERY SINGLE ACTION. END TEXT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLICATIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES, BOOKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TELAV02937
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760160-0589
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760416/aaaaanoq.tel
Line Count: 170
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 99517
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hackerp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAY 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <24 JAN 2005 by hackerp0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RABIN ON MATTI GOLAN BOOK
TAGS: PFOR, IS, US, (RABIN, YITZHAK), (GOLAN, MATTY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006